

State of New Jersey

Christine Todd Whitman Department of Environmental Protection
Governor

Robert C. Shinn, Jr. Commissioner

Fletcher Platt, Vice President Killam Associates 6 Emery Ave. Randolph, N.J. 07869-1362

MAR 9 1930

Dear Mr. Platt:

Re: Your Letter of January 26, 1999, Pricketts Brook Metals Contamination Runyon Watershed, Madison Industries, CPS(Ciba)/Madison Site

The purpose of this letter is to update the City of Perth Amboy with regards to surface water contamination in Pricketts Brook and the concerns contained in your letter referenced above. While significant progress has been made in reducing metal concentrations in the brook with the startup of RS-1 and RS-2, the Department has been closely monitoring the analytical data over the past two quarters and the effectiveness of RS-1 and RS-2. The Department has determined that the operation of these two shallow ground water recovery systems is not sufficient to completely mitigate the metals concentrations in the surface water. In approximately two weeks the Department will conduct a technical meeting with representatives of Madison Industries to discuss further interim remedial measures and technologies to mitigate contaminated ground water discharge to Pricketts Brook. The Department will keep the City informed with regards to these activities.

During our meeting of September 29, there was a discussion concerning Madison's southern surface water collection basin and the possibility that it may be a source area. The Department made an inspection of this basin and no evidence of leakage or overflow could be found. The basin is pumped-down very quickly with a 300 gpm pump after a rain event and may hold runoff for a day or two but generally the area is dry. Well above the high water mark along the top of the berm some cracks were beginning to form. Madison has hired a contractor and these have been repaired. The Department will continue to periodically inspect this area to ensure its integrity.

With regards to the PMP and the deletion of some of the monitor wells sampled, the Department carefully reviews all data before a well may be reduced or deleted. Many new wells have also been added to the quarterly sampling program. The PMP will continue to be modified based on the addition of new recovery systems and the changing nature of the plumes. Further modifications can be expected.

The Department will continue to keep the City informed by copying you and the other Perth Amboy representatives on all correspondence. Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (609) 633-0714.

Sincerely,

Paul Harvey, Case Manager

Bureau of Federal Case Management

C:

Luis Perez, Perth Amboy Joe Maraziti, Esq. Barry Vroeginday, Madison Dave Williams, Ciba John Osolin, EPA Charles Licata, DAG Jeff Story, BGWPA